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To: Honolulu City Council
The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair

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Historic Home Owner

City Council Meeting Wed. July 12, 2017 10:00am
City Council Chamber, Honolulu Hale

July 10 2017

I am writing to oppose CB52 CD1 (2017) Related to the Minimum Real Property Tax on Historic Residences.

My wife and I have owned our historic residence since 1988 and have been on the Register since the early 90's. We have always complied with all rules and regulations regarding the Historic Residence preservation benefits and appreciate the lower tax rate.

My home is obviously very valuable, and we maintain it as best as we can.

My last full house paint job was over \$30,000 cash and the last partial re-roofing of our very steep Queen Ann design roofline was over \$32,000 in cash. These were all lowest competitive bids.

I very much appreciate the previous \$100.00 per year property tax bill and the now current \$300.00 bill.

I realize as one Council Member was quoted as saying, that these homeowners can afford to pay \$1,000.00 per year.

I do not disagree, but this is a matter of fairness to what these historic homes do for Oahu history.

Since there are at least 23 other categories for property tax exemptions, this seems like arbitrary type of knee-jerk reaction to single out historic homes for a increase. It's also a drop in the bucket for the City and County of Honolulu budget.

Therefore, I urge the City Council to oppose CB 52 CD1 and leave the minimum property tax for historic homes unchanged. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

Mark R James

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